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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/810,457	03/26/2004	Ranganathan Krishnan	040213/QUALP841US	9317
76797	7590	10/31/2008		
Amin, Turocy & Calvin LLP 127 Public Square 57th Floor, Key Tower Cleveland, OH 44114				
EXAMINER				
MOUTAOUAKIL, MOUNIR				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2419				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
10/31/2008		ELECTRONIC		

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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 10/810,457  
Filing Date: March 26, 2004  
Appellant(s): KRISHNAN ET AL.

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Himanshu S. Amin  
Registration No. 40,984  
For Appellant

**EXAMINER'S ANSWER**

This is in response to the appeal brief filed on 12 August 2008 appealing from the Office action mailed 08 April 2008.

**(1) Real Party in Interest**

A statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

**(2) Related Appeals and Interferences**

The examiner is not aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

**(3) Status of Claims**

The statement of the status of claims contained in the brief is correct.

**(4) Status of Amendments After Final**

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

**(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter**

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

**(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal**

The appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is correct.

**(7) Claims Appendix**

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

**(8) Evidence Relied Upon**

7,184,767	Gandolfo	11-27-2002
2006/0046658	Cruz et al	09-05-2003
6,072,990	Agrawal et al	05-08-1997

Art Unit: 2419

2003/0083015	Palin et al	10-26-2001
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5,920,817	Umeda et al	05-19-1995
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Sun et al, Interference-Aware MAC scheduling and SAR policies for Bluetooth  
scatternet, IEEE, XP-010635904 (see IDS)

**(9) Grounds of Rejection**

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

- A.** Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 11-16, 18-20, and 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gandolfo (US 7,184,767) in view of Cruz et al (US 2006/0046658).
- B.** Claims 3 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gandolfo in view of Cruz and further in view of Agrawal et al (US 6,072,990).
- C.** Claims 7 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gandolfo in view of Cruz and further in view of Palin et al (US 2003/0083015).
- D.** Claims 9 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gandolfo in view of Cruz and further in view of Umeda et al (US 5,920,817).
- E.** Claims 10 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gandolfo in view of Sun et al (Interference-aware MAC scheduling and SAR policies for blue tooth scatternets).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 11-16, 18-20, 22, and 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gandolfo (US 7,184,767) in view of Cruz et al (US 2006/0046658). Hereinafter referred to as Cruz.

Regarding claims 1, 11, 13, 25 and 27. Gandolfo discloses a method of scheduling communications. The method comprises scheduling an inter-piconet transmission between first transmitting and receiving terminals (fig.6C, the communication between A-2 and B-2) and scheduling an intra-piconet transmission between second transmitting and receiving terminals (fig.3, the devices, within piconet, communicate with each other. 321 and 325).

Gandolfo discloses all the limitations of the claimed invention with the exception of scheduling the power level for the inter-piconet and intra-piconet transmission that will satisfy the quality parameters of the receiving terminals. Gandolfo also does not disclose that the intra-piconet transmission is scheduled simultaneously with the inter-piconet transmission.

However, Cruz discloses a method of scheduling the power level that will satisfy every receiver within the network. Cruz's network is divided into multiple clusters in communication with each other (paragraph [0017]). Moreover, Cruz discloses that the clusters are enabled to transmit simultaneously (paragraph [0099], clusters are interpreted as piconets). Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to implement the method of scheduling the power level of the transmission and to enabling clusters simultaneously, as taught by Cruz, into the piconet structure of Gandolfo for the purpose of improving the quality of communication between devices and the energy efficiency, as suggested by Cruz.

Regarding claim 2. The method of Gandolfo further comprises transmitting the schedule for the inter-piconet transmission to the first transmitting terminal (fig.6C,

510a, 530, and 522a), and transmitting the schedule for the intra-piconet transmission to the second transmitting terminal (fig.3. 310, 321, and 330).

Regarding claims 4 and 18. Gandolfo discloses a method wherein the first transmitting terminal and the second transmitting and receiving terminals are members of a first piconet (fig.6C, 521a, 523a, and 522a, col.8, lines 15-16, the element of the piconets behave just as illustrated in fig.3), and the first receiving terminal is a member of a second piconet (fig.6C, 522b).

Regarding claims 5 and 19. Gandolfo discloses a method wherein the first transmitting terminal and the second transmitting and receiving terminals are members of a first piconet (fig.6C, the first transmitting element 510a, second transmitting element 523a, and the second receiving element 521a. col.8, lines 15-16, the element of the piconets behave just as illustrated in fig.3), and the first receiving terminal is a member of the first piconet and a second piconet (fig 6C, 522a is a member of the first and second piconet col.8, lines 15-16, the elements of the piconets behave just as illustrated in fig.3).

Regarding claims 6 and 20. Gandolfo discloses a method wherein the inter-piconet transmission comprises information (fig.6C), the information being destined for a third terminal (522b), the third terminal being a member of the second piconet (560b), but not a member of the first piconet (fig.6C), the method further comprising scheduling a transmission of the information from the first receiving terminal to the third terminal (information is transmitted from 510a to 522b through 522a).

Regarding claims 8, 12, 22 and 26. Gandolfo discloses a wherein the first transmitting terminal and the second transmitting and receiving terminals are members of a first piconet (fig.6C elements 522a, 521a, 523a), and the first receiving terminal is a member of a second piconet (505a), the method further comprising transmitting the inter-piconet transmission schedule to a third terminal in the second piconet (510b), the third terminal being responsible for scheduling intra-piconet transmissions in the second piconet (510b is the second piconet's controller).

Regarding claim 14. Gandolfo discloses a method that further comprises a transmitter configured to transmit the schedule of the inter-piconet transmission to the first transmitting terminal (each piconet has a master or a controller that organizes the communication between devices, fig.3, and 6C), and transmit the schedule of the of intra-piconet transmission to the second transmitting terminal (each piconet has a master or a controller that organizes the communication between devices, fig.3, and 6C).

Regarding claim 15. Gandolfo discloses a method that further comprises a transceiver having the transmitter (fig.3, 6C every device in the piconets is a wireless device), and a user interface configured to allow a user to engage in communications with another terminal through the transceiver (fig.3, 6C the devices are wireless devices engaged in a communication with the master or the other devices wirelessly).

Regarding claim 16. Gandolfo discloses a method wherein the user interface comprises a keypad, a display, a speaker and a microphone (col.8, lines 15-17. The



devices in the piconet correspond to the elements of Fig.3, which a PDA is one of them).

Claims 3 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gandolfo in view of Cruz as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Agrawal et al (US 6,072,990). Hereinafter referred to as Agrawal.

Regarding claims 3 and 17. Gandolfo and Cruz do not explicitly disclose that the quality parameter comprises a carrier-to-interference ratio. However, Agrawal discloses, in a wireless network, a method that measures the quality of a transmission using various channel quality metrics such as carrier-to-interference (C/I) ratio (admitted prior art, col.1, lines 27-37). Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to implement the carrier-to-interference (C/I) ratio, as suggested by Agrawal, into the network of Gandolfo and Cruz for the purpose of improving or maintaining the quality of transmission between devices.

Claims 7 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gandolfo in view of Cruz as applied to claims 1 and 13 above, and further in view of Palin et al (US 2003/0083015). Hereinafter referred to as Palin.

Regarding claims 7 and 21. Gandolfo and Cruz do not explicitly disclose that a scheduled power level for the transmission, between terminals, is a function of path-loss related to the received information. However, Palin discloses, in a communication system, a method of scheduling and measuring the power level based on the power loss information. Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to implement the method of assigning the power level based

on the path loss information, as taught by Palin (paragraph [0042] and [0044]), into the communication system of Gandolfo in view of Cruz for the purpose of improving QOS and employing transmission power efficiently.

Claims 9 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gandolfo in view of Cruz as applied to claims 1 and 13 above, and further in view of Umeda et al (US 5,920,817). Hereinafter referred to as Umeda.

Regarding claims 9 and 23, Gandolfo and Cruz disclose all the limitations of the claimed invention. Gandolfo and Cruz do not explicitly disclose that the inter-piconet transmission has a first spreading code and the intra-piconet transmission has a second spreading code; moreover, the first spreading code is different from the second spreading code. However, Umeda discloses, in a mobile communication system, a method where a device is capable of communicating with n different elements using n different spreading codes (col.7, lines 6-27). Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to implement the method of having different spreading codes for different entities and networks, as suggested by Umeda, into the networks of Gandolfo in view of Cruz for the purpose of enhancing transmissions security.

Claims 10 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gandolfo in view of Sun et al (Interference-aware MAC scheduling and SAR policies for blue tooth scatternets). Hereinafter referred to as Sun.

Regarding claims 10 and 24. Gandolfo discloses a method of scheduling communications. The method comprises receiving in a first piconet information relating

to a scheduled inter-piconet transmission from a second piconet (fig.6C. Inter-piconet communication is established); and scheduling a plurality of intra-piconet transmissions in the first piconet (fig.6C, each piconet has the same structure as of the piconet of fig.3).

Gandolfo discloses all the limitations of the claimed invention with the exception that no intra-piconet transmissions are scheduled simultaneously with the inter-piconet transmission. However, Sun discloses a method where the inter-piconet and intra-piconet transmissions are not simultaneous because the slave nodes take turns in transmitting information (page 11, from left column, line 44 to right column, Line 21, and 27-29; page 13, left column, lines 28-31, and right column, lines 28-39). Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention implement the interference aware method of Sun into the piconet system of Gandolfo for the purpose of avoiding or reducing interference between transmissions.

#### **(10) Response to Argument**

**A. Regarding claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 11-16, 18-20, and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C.**

**103(a).**

Appellants have argued that Gandolfo in view of Cruz fails to, disclose, teach, mention, or suggest *"a method for scheduling communication between first and second terminals in an intra piconet and scheduling communications between first and second terminals in an intra piconet"*.

In response to appellants' argument, the examiner respectfully disagrees. As indicated in previous rejections, Figure 3 in Gandolfo, shown below, teaches how intranet communication operates. Figure 3 and column 3, lines 37-47, disclose that a piconet controller uses a beacon to assign and define time slots. All network devices listen to the controller during the beacon period. The controller coordinates the transmitting and receiving of the devices. Consequently, each device would know when to transmit and when to receive. Thus, the scheduling of intra piconet between first and second terminals is met by Gandolfo.

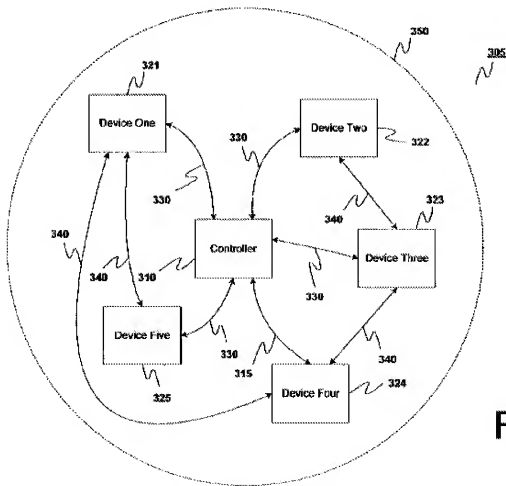


Fig. 3

Further, figure 6C and column 11, lines 41-58, show communication between multiple piconets (inter-piconets). For instance, one of the controllers from one of the networks is capable of enabling communication between devices through time slot assignments, where each device is from a different piconet. As shown in figure 6C, devices 522a and 522b communicate with each other via a wireless link 590. Thus, the scheduling of inter piconet between first and second terminals is met by Gandolfo.

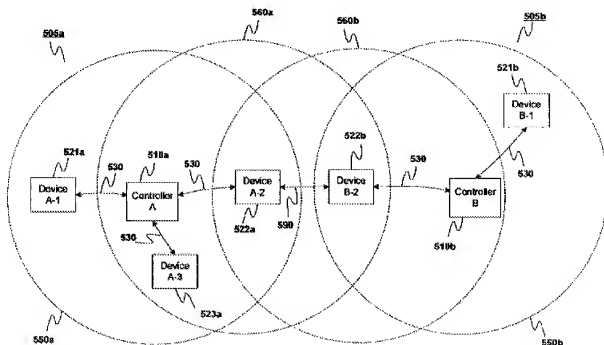


Fig. 6C

Therefore, Gandolfo discloses that a single piconet controller is capable of scheduling time slots to enable communication between specific devices within the same piconet or between specific devices from different piconets, as discussed above.

Appellants further alleged that the rejection to the claims listed above fails because *"Cruz fails to teach or suggest scheduling power levels for the inter-piconet*

*and intra-piconet transmission that satisfies quality parameters of receiving terminals and further fails to teach or suggest that the intra-piconet transmission is scheduled simultaneously with the inter-piconet transmission".*

As previously discussed, Gandolfo discloses scheduling time slots to enable communication between devices within inter-piconet and intra-piconet. Also as stated earlier in previous office actions, Gandolfo fails to teach scheduling power level for communication between devices. However, Cruz, from the same field of endeavor, teaches a method of choosing optimal power levels in **each** time slot for each transmitter (see paragraph [0040], lines 1-2), the chosen power level has to satisfy the receiving node otherwise it will appear to the receiving node as interference (see paragraphs [0026] and [0027]). Therefore, contrary to appellants, Gandolfo in view of Cruz teaches scheduling power levels of each time slot to allow efficient transmission between devices within inter-piconet and intra-piconet.

As mentioned above, Appellants state that both prior arts fails to teach simultaneously scheduling inter-piconet and intra-piconet transmissions. However, both Gandolfo and Cruz disclose the capability of scheduling inter-piconet and intra-piconet transmission simultaneously. Gandolfo teaches (fig.4b) the usage of a frame of time slots wherein each time slot enables a specific transmitter to transmit to a specific receiver. Therefore, a single frame can enable multiple transmissions concurrently. Similarly, Cruz teaches scheduling transmission employing time slots, wherein each time slot is dedicated for a specific transmission between a specific transmitter and specific receiver. Accordingly, Cruz teaches the same method of communication as

previously discussed by Gandolfo. Thus, the simultaneous inter-piconet and intra-piconet transmission is met by Gandolfo.

**B. Regarding claims 3 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).**

Appellants believe that claims 3 and 17 are allowable as being dependent on claims 1 and 13.

Examiner respectfully disagrees, claims 3 and 17 stand rejected because claims 1 and 13 remain rejected as discussed above.

**C. Regarding claims 7 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).**

Appellants believe that claims 7 and 21 are allowable as being dependent on claims 1 and 13.

Examiner respectfully disagrees, claims 9 and 21 stand rejected because claims 1 and 13 remain rejected as discussed above.

**D. Regarding claims 9 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).**

Appellants believe that claims 9 and 23 are allowable as being dependent on claims 1 and 13.

Examiner respectfully disagrees, claims 9 and 23 stand rejected because claims 1 and 13 remain rejected as discussed above.

**E. Regarding claims 10 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).**

Appellants argue that Gandolfo does not teach, mention, or disclose scheduling transmission whatsoever.

Examiner respectfully disagrees. According to the previously discussed section (A) in the response to argument, Gandolfo discloses scheduling both inter-piconet and intra-piconet transmissions.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

/Mounir Moutaouakil/

Examiner, Art Unit 2419

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